

REMARKS

The Office Action requires a new Oath/Declaration identifying the application by application number and filing date. Applicant's are in the process of obtaining such document, and a new Oath/Declaration will be provided in due course.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been amended appropriately.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 11-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipate by Tuan. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a memory system and process for controlling a memory component which allows different kinds of memory characteristics on one memory component. For example, in one embodiment, the memory component in a first mode, e.g. by use of a programming pulse of relatively low intensity might be brought into a state of relatively short storage permanence (e.g. between 2 hours and 10 days). Whereas, according to a second embodiment, the memory component in a second mode, e.g. by use of a programming pulse of relatively high intensity might be brought into a state of relatively high storage permanence (e.g. between 1 month and several years).

Tuan discloses a read/write-only semiconductor memory. However, the memory does not include PMC memory components. Moreover, Tuan fails to disclose bringing a PMC memory component into states of different storage permanence by selecting a current intensity, duration of a programming pulse and/or a number of programming pulses, as required by the claimed invention (as amended). Rather, Tuan discloses a read-write mode, where a data bit written in the memory can be altered later on, e.g. by writing a different data bit into the memory, and a read-only mode, where a data bit, once written in the memory, cannot be altered later on (see, for example, col. 1, lns. 19-30 and col. 5, ln. 61 - col. 7, ln. 9).

Since the recited system and process are not disclosed by the applied prior art, claims 1 and 7 are patentable. Claims 2-10, depending from claim 1; and claims 12-15, depending from claim 11, are similarly patentable.

Claims 4,7, 9-10, 13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Tuan in view of various combinations of Hu and Moore. The rejections are respectfully traversed for the same reasons presented in the arguments above and since neither Hu nor Moore disclose bringing a PMC memory component into states of different storage permanence by selecting a current intensity, duration of programming pulse and/or number of programming modules.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 543822002600.

Dated: February 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Kevin R. Spivak

Registration No.: 43,148

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300

McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 760-7762